

**Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council  
Executive Committee  
Minutes of August 8, 2011**

Davis called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Judge Mac Davis, Jim Dwyer, Peter Schuler, Sam Benedict, Brad Schimel.

**Absent:** Dan Vrakas.

**Also Present:** Vanessa Allen, Sarah Spaeth, Rebecca Luczaj.

**Approve Minutes from July 11, 2011 Meeting**

The minutes of July 11, 2011 were approved by unanimous consent.

**Update on Education & Public Relations Committee Membership**

Luczaj said Larry Nelson became an inactive member of the Education and Public Relations Committee when he began his new teaching position at the Juvenile Center and was unable to attend meetings. Nelson recently notified Luczaj that he is now able to attend meetings and would like to be reactivated. The committee meets August 22 to begin preparations for the fall CJCC newsletter.

**Strategic Planning Follow-Up: Update on Independent Evaluation of CJCC Programs**

Luczaj said at the strategic planning meeting it was noted that formal evaluation of the CJCC programs could be beneficial. Luczaj asked researcher Matt Hiller for advice on securing a professor to help with this project. Hiller and his colleague UW-Milwaukee Criminal Justice Professor Tom LaBel and his graduate students are willing to work on the project for free as part of their required service work. Hiller is interested in the project because of his past connection with the CJCC ATC and likes what we do. LaBel will be the local contact and his students will conduct the field work. Luczaj said the committee needs to decide which programs should be evaluated and in what order. Luczaj will continue to work with Hiller and LaBel on details and keep the committee updated.

Dwyer said he would like Hiller and La Bel to connect with staff from the Public Policy Forum.

Davis asked do the professors have expertise in CJCC-like programs? Luczaj said Hiller has interest and background in pretrial programs. Davis asked has a project timeline been developed? Luczaj said that has been decided yet but it should be started within the next three months. Davis suggested starting evaluations in two to three months and finish in May 2012. Benedict said it would be good to have the results for the next budget preparation cycle.

Dwyer suggested evaluating program effectiveness, accountability, performance and outcomes. Benedict said it needs to be determined if the CJCC has the right program objectives and measures. Are the programs doing what they are supposed to do? Do the programs make an impact?

Davis said this sounds like a great opportunity and is enthusiastic about the plan. Dwyer said the price is right.

**Discuss & Consider Merging Pretrial Subcommittee (Pretrial) with Programs & Alternatives Committee (P&A)**

Luczaj distributed and reviewed the Pretrial and P&A Committee membership lists. She said Pretrial and P&A have quite a bit of duplicate responsibilities and overlapping membership. She recommends merging the two groups into the P&A. Pretrial, which is supposed to meet quarterly, is frequently canceled due to lack of discussion items. P&A meets regularly every other month. WCS provides the same pretrial

program updates at both P&A and Pretrial. Subcommittee Chair JoAnn Eiring is in agreement with the merger and is conscientious about not wasting committee members' time.

Davis asked can P&A absorb the workload without any problems? Schuler said P&A reviews all CJCC programs. The merger could work as long as effort is made to not lose content. Former Pretrial members could be asked for agenda ideas. There is never a shortage of agenda items for P&A agendas.

Dwyer said three primaries, Brad Schimel, Mike Giese and Sam Benedict, serve on Pretrial and would be lost if the committee was dissolved.

Benedict said Pretrial was designed to be a project committee and active in implementing programs when CJCC was conceived. P&A is a large committee while Pretrial is a small group which is helpful when discussing and considering court process decisions. Benedict does not see any benefit in combining the committees. Pretrial could be suspended and reactivated, renamed, more clearly defined and meet as needed. A minimal expectation of one meeting per year could be set.

Schimel said P&A members do not have the background to get involved in discussions about court proceedings. Benedict said he does not want the important discussions eliminated.

Davis asked what the group thought of the name "Pretrial Court Processes Committee" and allowing the group to meet only when necessary?

Schuler said he likes Benedict's ideas of redefining and renaming the committee. The change will help the committee chair be more comfortable calling meetings only as necessary. Program evaluations may indicate further changes are needed.

Motion: Benedict moved, Dwyer second, to approve the Pretrial Subcommittee name change to Pretrial Court Processes Committee and allow the group to meet minimally one time per year. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Review Work of Drug Abuse Trends Committee & Discuss Next Steps**

Luczaj distributed and Schimel reviewed a handout titled *CJCC Drug Abuse Trends Committee, Summary of Meetings Content* including committee meeting dates, topics covered, membership and group purpose. Schimel said the group learned a lot through amazing presentations, statistical reports, stories about program successes, etc. The committee could continue to bring in presenters and learn about drug abuse trends but there seems to be no reason to continue in this manner. The CJCC focuses on improvements to the criminal justice system and does not have resources to tackle prevention. It seems the best option for Waukesha County is a drug treatment court and steps have already been taken to pursue this option.

Davis recommended the committee put together a final report outlining the committee's findings relative to Waukesha County's justice system. Luczaj said she would rather work on the report with Schimel than trying to write a report by committee. Benedict suggested a report written by a smaller group. The last committee meeting could address whether expectations were created that could not be fulfilled. Davis said committee members could be referred/connected to the Drug Free Communities Task Force.

Schuler said community public health planning committees have been mandated across the state to deal with all forms of health including substance abuse. A report from the Drug Abuse Trends Committee focusing on how the criminal justice system cannot solve all drug problems and community substance abuse issues could be funneled to the committee. Schuler said the message to the community is that drug

abuse is a serious problem. Schimel said the report could be used to support a drug court in Waukesha County.

Dwyer asked does the CJCC have a means of sharing best practices? If not, perhaps that is a task for the Educations and Public Relations Committee to develop.

The group came to consensus that a final report should be written and discussed/considered at the last committee meeting. The committee should be asked for feedback on the report and thanked for their service.

### **Discuss & Consider Participating in the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) Research-Based Smarter Sentencing Training**

Luczaj said the OJA recently announced additional research-based smarter sentencing training sessions would be offered in Wisconsin because of overwhelming response to training offered by the Justice Management Institute. All expenses will be paid by OJA. Letters of interest are due August 16 for the two-day training and need to include team members' names and an explanation of how far the team is willing to travel for the training. Training dates have not been set but are expected to be in October or November 2011. Luczaj asked does the group want to send a team from Waukesha County?

Luczaj said an appropriate Waukesha County team might include Sam Benedict (Public Defender representative), Brad Schimel (District Attorney's Office representative), a member of the private bar, a judge and a representative from Probation and Parole. Davis said he would like to send more than five people. Davis and Benedict agreed the more lead time on training dates will make it easier for people to attend. Schimel and Benedict agreed to attend (schedules allowing) or send a representative from their offices and Davis committed to sending at least one judge. The group agreed Karl Held (Probation and Parole representative) should be invited as well.

Schimel said we will go wherever there is training because OJA is paying for travel.

Davis asked do attendees receive continuing education credits (CEUs)? Can Waukesha County send more than five people?

Luczaj committed to contacting OJA to find out the number of people allowed per group and if CEUs are available and to recommend advanced notice of the training sessions. She will also submit the letter by the due date.

### **Next CJCC Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 12, 2011 @ 8:30 AM, Room C179

Davis said he is unable to attend this meeting and asked Dwyer to chair the meeting.

### **Next CJCC Meeting**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 @ 8:30 AM, Room C179

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.